

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH ANCIENT ORNAMENTAL GLASS.

JUNE 9. Mr. French, architect, in the chair. The Earl of Zealand exhibited an enriched foliated frame, designed to hold the orders of General Dundas. The Hon. Stewart Mackenzie contributed twelve pictures in box-wood, being specimens of early German carving. Mr. A. Black exhibited some drawings of Details in Heriot's Hospital and Glasgow College, Scotland.

Mr. A. J. Stothard offered a few remarks in connection with his paper, read at a former meeting, relative to the supposed mode which the ancients adopted for the production of the Portland Vase; observing, that he was more especially led to present them by way of supplement, in consequence of his hypothesis being apparently confirmed by a very interesting paper, which appeared in the *Literary Gazette* of the 16th ult., from the pen of Campanari the elder, "On the Glass of the Ancients," who states, "That the ancients, among other interesting things, discovered glass to a perfection which their posterity are very far from having attained; vases, cups, and utensils of all sorts, as deposited in the museums of Europe, and that of Herulanum, as dug out of Hetruscan and Roman tombs;" that they "wrought baso-relievi: the most useful and important, as observed by Winkelmann, was certainly the glass paste with which cameo and intaglio were exactly imitated." Without passing over Campanari's paper seriatim, such parts only as more especially bore on the subject were referred to.

The next paragraph stated, "That it was certain that the impressions of these glass cameos were made with care taken from the original," which, the lecturer remarked, would of course pre-suppose that the baso-relievi were from models, previously prepared on the body of whatever it might be of which it was to form a part; that they were cast, Campanari says, was evident, because on the surface might be discovered by the naked eye a roughness termed *alavatura*, as clearly indicated by remnants of several parts not polished; in others can be seen marks of a fissure in the stamp—as in the glass paste belonging to Mr. Emerson—in others, an unevenness, caused by a fault in the intaglio applied to it, as in the cameo in possession of Mr. Hertz. The lecturer remarked, that he attributed such a fissure to arise from such parts of the melted glass or metal not being at a proper degree of heat when they came in contact, and which would in all probability form a line of that character. Some small specimens of works of the ancients, which were laid on the table of the college at a recent meeting, belonging to Earl Cadogan, had every appearance of having been cast. But he passed on to works of a much larger character referred to by Campanari, one of which was a large cameo in the *Bibliotheca Vaticana*, as described by Winkelmann. On the Portland Vase, or the fragments of it when in a shattered state through its late mishap, it might be observed, that the parts from which the white figures had been separated by the blow, showed clearly that the whole surface of the vase was equally polished. That the wheel was used by the ancients cannot be disputed, and is fully admitted by M. Campanari, who supports Mr. Stothard's idea, that it was only done to remove the *alavatura* or roughness left on the surface of the baso-relievo in the casting, while the field of the vase, from the mode described in the previous paper of the latter, would be preserved as originally blown; this appeared to be confirmed by Campanari, when stating, "that from the examples referred to, it was evident that the ancients first took models in clay of the baso-relievo they wanted to represent, and then they affixed to the vase casts from the models, as with casts from intaglio they reproduced the original engraving in glass."

On this part of the process Mr. Stothard and this authority did not agree, the former supposing them to be affixed by casting the baso-relievo on the body of the vase, while the latter believed them to be cast in a detached form; and affixed subsequently. In closing his remarks, the former expressed deep regret that the polished surface beneath the figures of the Portland Vase, was not compared with those parts of the body of the vase

termed the field; for by doing so, it might in all probability have been ascertained, if the wheel had passed over the blue ground not so covered by the baso-relievo, as certain angles would of necessity appear thereon if it had, while those parts covered from the wheel by the baso-relievo would be without such marks, as he believed that no art or polishing would produce that *evenness* and *brilliance* of character which will be found on the metal as blown. Such an examination, he did think, would set at rest the question whether the whole had been cut with the wheel, as in cameo engraving, as supposed by Mr. Doubleday, to whose hands it was committed for restoration, or if the figures had been cast as suggested by the lecturer, while the blue ground of the vase was preserved in its original state, by being covered with *loom* while casting the baso-relievo thereon; if the latter, we may yet hope to see some works of this character produced in our own day; especial ground for such an expectation may be derived from the valuable researches of Campanari.

A communication was then read from Mr. James Finn, her Majesty's consul at Jerusalem, on the buildings in Avignon, &c., to which we shall refer on another occasion. A conversation is to be given on the 29th inst., on the occasion of opening new rooms.

MEDALS OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

We had the pleasure of witnessing the distribution of prizes at the house of the Society of Arts, in John-street, Adelphi, on the 12th instant. A numerous, but select, assemblage, amongst whom were many ladies, had met in expectation of seeing his Royal Highness Prince Albert in the chair, as president of the society, to distribute the numerous medals and other prizes; but much disappointment was felt when it was intimated that the result of a slight accident prevented his Royal Highness from attending. Mr. Scott Russell appeared to have much gratification in stating, that a deputation of the office-bearers appointed to wait upon Prince Albert at the Palace, in order to give him information as to the affairs of the society, had found that they had gone there to receive information, not to contribute it; and that his Royal Highness not only appeared to be thoroughly versant with the doings of the society, but to have well considered various subjects demanding improvement, and regarding which he pointed out to them, in the most business-like manner, how they should proceed. Amongst other suggestions, his Royal Highness proposed, with reference to the fine green marble of Ireland, the value of which did not appear to be known even to its proprietors, much less to the district in which it abounds, that a premium ought to be offered next session for the most perfect slab of it, as a specimen, to be contributed to the society. It appears, also, that the prize patterns of ordinary stoneware for tea and dinner services for the poorer classes, in which the society has taken great interest, are the result of a suggestion made by his Royal Highness, with the view of improving and gratifying the taste of those who could not afford to purchase elegant forms wrought in expensive material. In short, said Mr. Scott Russell, we have a most intelligent, most willing, and most valuable president, of whom we are very proud.

It is but justice to Mr. Scott Russell himself, however, to say, that the society appears to be deeply indebted to him also, as one of the very main-springs of its present successful state of operation; and he appears to be well sustained and seconded in his vigorous and untiring efforts by his more immediate colleagues in office.

The spectators were somewhat compensated for the want of the Royal president, by the appearance of his Highness Ibrahim Pacha, followed by several of his suite in their Egyptian costume, and all of whom appeared to be much interested with the proceedings. The chair was occupied, singularly enough, by the Pacha's old antagonist Admiral Codrington, with whom the Pacha good-humouredly shook hands on being unanimously elected a member of the society.

In our further remarks, we must, of course, confine ourselves to what more particularly concerns us. And first in order amongst the

prizes for improvements in mechanics and mechanical arts, is,

No. 1. To Mr. M. Ricardo, of Brighton, for his machine for registering the speed of railway trains, the gold Isis medal.

"Mr. Ricardo's machine," the committee remarked, "is simple, ingenious, and accurate. The correct determination of the travelling velocity of trains at all points of the journey, with the duration of stoppages, by self-acting mechanism, is an important object, and the preservation of such a record for the use of the directors and managers of a railway is likely to promote the public security, and the efficiency of superintendents."

No. 3. To Mr. T. R. Crampton, C.E. of 18, Sussex-place, Kensington, for his improvement in the construction of the locomotive steam-engine, the gold Isis medal.

The committee announced Mr. Crampton's invention as "a mode of constructing locomotive engines, by which the centre of gravity may be placed lower than in the ordinary construction, and at the same time allow as large a driving wheel to be used as any practical man may desire. He is enabled by this means to construct a more powerful engine than heretofore on the narrow gauge, without diminishing its stability."

No. 4. To Mrs. Varley, of Charles-street, Clarendon-square, for her method of ventilating rooms without cold currents, or complex apparatus, the silver medal and 5*l*. 5*s*.—The committee appeared to think that Mrs. Varley has accomplished her object, so as to afford thorough ventilation without draughts, an object not yet, it appears, otherwise accomplished on behalf of either our legislature or our judicial administrators of the law.

No. 5. To Mr. Joshua Jeays, of 9, Green-street, Marlborough-road, Chelsea, for his orthogonal system of hand-railing, the silver medal.—"Mr. Jeays' system of getting out with the hand-rails," the committee remarked, "is new, ingenious, and economical; and there is little doubt it would be useful to mechanics, if generally adopted."

No. 9. To Mr. T. Falconer, of 10, Park-street, Limehouse, for his improved plough for carpenters, joiners, &c., the silver medal and 5*l*.

No. 10. To Mr. W. G. Gover, of 8, Chester-square, Piccadilly, for his patent removable window sash, the silver medal:—"Mr. Gover's window sash," the committee observed, "affords great facility for removals. It is light when in its place. The fixed head is important, and the expense is moderate. The benevolent object of the invention, namely, prevention against accident, is well carried out by novel means."

No. 14. To Mr. H. B. Cowell, of 4, Compton-street, Ball's-pond, for his improved ball-tap for cisterns, the silver medal.

No. 15. To Mr. J. E. McDonald, 22, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, for his improved Achromedian screw-drill, the silver Isis medal.

No. 17. To Mr. G. Scott, of 13, Fletcher's-row, Clerkenwell, for his apparatus for drilling and tapping gas and water-pipes, the honorary testimonial and 5*l*.

No. 21. To Mr. D. Middleton, of 9, Bailgate, Lincoln, for his self-sweeping chimney pot, the honorary testimonial.

In the fine arts a number of medals were distributed, many of them to young persons, both male and female, and some to mere children, for meritorious endeavours; but of these we cannot here take any special note.

No. 48. To Dr. Ritterbandt, of 9, King William-street, Strand, for his method of preventing incrustation in steam-boilers, the gold Isis medal.—Chlorine or muriatic acid, in the form of muriate of ammonia, is the agent recommended by Dr. Ritterbandt. The incrustation being of a calcareous nature, and lime, when combined with muriatic acid, being of a soluble and indeed highly deliquescent nature, muriate of ammonia dissolves the incrustation by simply contributing its muriatic acid to the lime, and converting it into the soluble muriate of lime.

No. 49. To Mr. B. Albano, civil engineer, of 24, Essex-street, Strand, for his patent cannabic composition, the gold Isis medal. On this subject the resolution of the committee was stated to have been "that in their opinion, Mr. Albano's patent cannabic composition is new, and an article which is cheaper and in many respects superior to any material